

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

a second body pivotably connected to the first body so that it can rotate about a second axis;

AJ conc)
a first actuating device for positioning the first body in various first angular positions with respect to the first axis;

a second actuating device for positioning the second body in multiple second angular positions with respect to the second axis, wherein the second angular positions of the second body are independent of the first angular positions of the first body while the first body is in at least two different first angular positions;

a locking device for maintaining the first body in a first angular position and the second body in a second angular position; and

a slaughter product fixing device for fixedly connecting the slaughter product to the second body.

NEW CLAIMS

Please add new claims 2-63 as follows:

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2. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein the locking device comprises:
a first locking device for maintaining the first body in a first angular position; and
a second locking device for maintaining the second body in a second angular position;
wherein the first locking device is formed by the first actuating device.

3. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein the locking device comprises:
a first locking device for maintaining the first body in a first angular position; and
a second locking device for maintaining the second body in a second angular position;
wherein the second locking device is formed by the second actuating device.

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4. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein the first body further comprises a gearwheel, and the first actuating device comprises at least one toothed structure positioned along the path of the conveyor to engage the gearwheel.

5. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein the second actuating device comprises a crankshaft mechanism comprising at least one crank.

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curve* 6. (New) The device of claim 5, wherein the second actuating device comprises at least one actuating protrusion that engages a slot of an actuating element arranged along the path of the conveyor for actuating the at least one crank.

7. (New) The device of claim 5, wherein the crankshaft mechanism comprises a first crank and a second crank each positioned in a plane perpendicular to the second axis and engaging on the second body at an angle relative to one another with respect to the second axis, the angle being other than 0 degrees.

8. (New) The device of claim 5, wherein each crank comprises at least two actuating protrusions for actuating the crankshaft mechanism while the first body is positioned in at least two different first angular positions.

9. (New) The device of claim 1, further comprising:
a third actuating device for positioning the second body in multiple third angular positions with respect to a third axis; and
a third locking device for maintaining the second body in a third angular position.

10. (New) The device of claim 9, wherein the second body has a longitudinal axis, and wherein the third axis is oriented substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the second body.

11. (New) The device of claim 1, further comprising a slaughter product carrier coupled to the second body, and wherein the slaughter product fixing device is adapted to couple the slaughter product to the slaughter product carrier.

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12. (New) The device of claim 11, wherein the slaughter product carrier comprises a surface for supporting the slaughter product and a fixing element coupled to the surface and comprising at least one projection adapted to contact the slaughter product through an opening in the surface.

13. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein the slaughter product fixing device is arranged along the path of the conveyor.

14. (New) A device for processing a slaughter product, comprising:
a conveyor for moving the slaughter product along a path;
a first body connected to the conveyor so that it can rotate about a first axis;
a second body connected to the first body so that it can rotate about a second axis;
first actuating means for positioning the first body in multiple first angular positions with respect to the first axis;
second actuating means for positioning the second body in multiple second angular positions with respect to the second axis, wherein the second angular positions of the second body are independent of the first angular positions of the first body;
locking means for maintaining the first body in a first angular position and the second body in a second angular position; and

slaughter product fixing means for fixedly connecting a breast portion of the slaughter product to the second body.

15. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the locking means comprises: a first locking means for maintaining the first body in a first angular position; and a second locking means for maintaining the second body in a second angular position, wherein the first locking means is formed by the first actuating means.

16. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the locking means comprises: a first locking means for maintaining the first body in a first angular position; and a second locking means for maintaining the second body in a second angular position, wherein the second locking means is formed by the second actuating means.

17. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the locking means are positioned along the path of the conveyor.

18. (New) The device of claim 17, wherein the locking means are adapted to engage the slaughter product.

19. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein substantially the entire second body is positioned beneath the first body in at least one of the second angular positions.

20. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the conveyor is an overhead conveyor.

21. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the first axis is substantially vertical.

22. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the second axis is substantially perpendicular to the first axis.

23. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the first axis and the second axis are separated by a distance of at most about 0.1 meters.

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24. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the first axis and the second axis intersect.

25. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the first body comprises at least one projection positioned substantially perpendicular to the first axis.

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26. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the first actuating means comprises at least one stop positioned along the path of the conveyor for engaging the at least one projection.

27. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the first body further comprises a gearwheel, and the first actuating means comprise at least one toothed structure positioned along the path of the conveyor to engage the gearwheel.

28. (New) The device of claim 27, wherein the gearwheel comprises a first section of a circumference of the gearwheel and a second section of the circumference of the gearwheel, wherein the first section comprises teeth to engage the toothed structure of the first actuating means.

29. (New) The device of claim 28, wherein the gearwheel further comprises a protrusion positioned adjacent to the second section of the gearwheel for blocking rotation of the first body about the first axis in one direction of rotation.

30. (New) The device of claim 28, wherein a height of the gearwheel comprises a first portion and a second portion adjacent the first portion, wherein the first portion comprises the first section and the second section and the second portion comprises teeth.

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31. (New) The device of claim 27, wherein the first actuating means comprises two toothed structures that each engage the gearwheel at a different height of the gearwheel.

32. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the second actuating means comprises a crankshaft mechanism comprising at least one crank.

33. (New) The device of claim 32, wherein the second actuating means comprises at least one actuating protrusion that engages a slot of an actuating element arranged along the path of the conveyor for actuating the at least one crank.

34. (New) The device of claim 32, wherein the crankshaft mechanism comprises a first crank and a second crank each positioned in a plane perpendicular to the second axis and engaging on the second body at an angle relative to one another with respect to the second axis, the angle being other than 0 degrees.

35. (New) The device of claim 32, wherein each crank comprises at least two actuating protrusions for actuating the crankshaft mechanism while the first body is positioned in at least two different first angular positions.

36. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the second actuating means comprises a gearwheel comprising teeth and coupled to the second body and a rack bar comprising teeth and coupled to the first body, wherein the gearwheel teeth and the rack bar teeth are adapted to mesh.

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37. (New) The device of claim 36, wherein the second actuating means further comprises at least one actuating protrusion that operatively engages the rack bar and is adapted to be received in a slot of an actuating element arranged along the path of the conveyor.

38. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the second actuating means comprises a gearwheel comprising teeth and coupled to the second body, and a belt comprising teeth and coupled to the first body, wherein the gearwheel teeth are adapted to mesh the belt teeth.

39. (New) The device of claim 38, wherein the second actuating means further comprises at least one actuating protrusion that operatively engages the toothed belt and is adapted to be received in a slot of an actuating element positioned along the path of the conveyor.

40. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the first body comprises a first rolling body having a first rolling surface and the second body comprises a second rolling body having a second rolling surface and wherein the second actuating means comprises the

first rolling body and the second rolling body, wherein the first rolling surface and the second rolling surface engage at a contact point to roll relative to each other.

41. (New) The device of claim 40, wherein the first rolling body is integrally formed with the first body.

42. (New) The device of claim 40, wherein the second rolling body is integrally formed with the second body.

43. (New) The device of claim 40, wherein the first rolling surface and the second rolling surface each comprise teeth, wherein the teeth of the first rolling surface mesh with the teeth of the second rolling surface.
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44. (New) The device of claim 40, further comprising a flexible cord fixedly attached at a first end to the first rolling body, wherein the cord extends along the first rolling surface to the contact point between the first and second rolling surfaces and then extends along the second rolling surface, to a point where the second end of the cord is fixedly attached to the second rolling body.

45. (New) The device of claim 40, wherein at least a portion of each rolling surface extends in the form of an arc about a center point associated with each rolling body.

46. (New) The device of claim 40, wherein an axis extends through each center point and the axes of the rolling bodies are parallel.

47. (New) The device of claim 46, wherein the first rolling body is fixedly connected to the first body.

48. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the first body comprises a first rolling body having a first rolling surface and the second body comprises a second rolling body having a second rolling surface, wherein the first rolling surface and the second rolling surface engage at a contact point to roll relative to each other, wherein the second actuating means further comprises an arm that operatively connects the second rolling body to the first body, wherein the arm is capable of being rotated about a center line of both the first rolling body and the second rolling body, and wherein the second actuating means further comprises an actuating protrusion coupled to the arm so that movement of the actuating protrusion causes a pivoting movement of the arm.

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49. (New) The device of claim 48, wherein the actuating protrusion is guided in an associated guide with respect to the first body and is connected with a coupling rod to the arm at a distance from the center line of the first rolling body.

50. (New) The device of claim 49, wherein the associated guide is substantially straight.

51. (New) The device of claim 14, further comprising:
third actuating means for positioning the second body in multiple third angular positions with respect to a third axis; and
third locking means for maintaining the second body in a third angular position.

52. (New) The device of claim 51, wherein the second body has a longitudinal axis, and wherein the third axis is oriented substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the second body.

53. (New) The device of claim 14, further comprising a slaughter product carrier coupled to the second body, and wherein the slaughter product fixing means are adapted to couple the slaughter product to the slaughter product carrier.

54. (New) The device of claim 53, wherein the slaughter product carrier is adapted to receive a front half of slaughtered poultry.

55. (New) The device of claim 53, wherein the slaughter product carrier comprises a surface for supporting the slaughter product and a fixing element coupled to the surface and comprising at least one projection adapted to contact the slaughter product through an opening in the surface.

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56. (New) The device of claim 55, wherein the fixing element comprises a hook.

57. (New) The device of claim 53, wherein a first part of the slaughter product carrier can move with respect to a second part of the slaughter product carrier.

58. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the slaughter product fixing means are arranged along the path of the conveyor.

59. (New) The device of claim 58, wherein the slaughter product fixing means comprise at least one guide rail extending generally in the direction of the path of the conveyor and positioned along the path of the conveyor to contact the slaughter product.

60. (New) The device of claim 58, wherein the slaughter product fixing means comprise at least one belt positioned along the path of the conveyor and extending

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generally in the direction of the path of the conveyor, wherein one surface of the belt is adapted to move in the direction of the conveyor and contact the slaughter product.

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61. (New) The device of claim 58, wherein the slaughter product fixing means comprise at least one slaughter product processing means extending generally in the direction of the path of the conveyor and positioned along the path of the conveyor to contact the slaughter product to process the slaughter product.

62. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the first body comprises at least one recess positioned substantially perpendicular to the first axis.

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63. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the first actuating means comprises at least one stop positioned along the path of the conveyor for engaging the at least one recess.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(c), the following versions of the claims as rewritten by the foregoing amendment show all the changes made relative to the previous versions of the claims.

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) Device for processing a slaughter product, comprising:
 - a conveyor for moving the slaughter product along a path;
 - a first body pivotably connected to the conveyor so that it can rotate about a first axis;
 - a second body pivotably connected to the first body so that it can rotate about a second axis;
 - a first actuating device for positioning the first body in various first angular positions with respect to the first axis;
 - a second actuating device for positioning the second body in [various] multiple second angular positions with respect to the second axis, wherein the second angular positions of the second body are independent of the first angular positions of the first body [actuating device being positionable in various second angular positions] while the first body is [positionable] in at least two different first angular positions;
 - a locking device for maintaining [fixing] the first body in a first [and/or second] angular position and the second body in a second angular position; and
 - a slaughter product fixing device for fixedly connecting the slaughter product to the second body.

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NEW CLAIMS

Please add new claims 2-63 as follows:

2. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein the locking device comprises: a first locking device for maintaining the first body in a first angular position; and a second locking device for maintaining the second body in a second angular position; wherein the first locking device is formed by the first actuating device.
3. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein the locking device comprises: a first locking device for maintaining the first body in a first angular position; and a second locking device for maintaining the second body in a second angular position; wherein the second locking device is formed by the second actuating device.
4. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein the first body further comprises a gearwheel, and the first actuating device comprises at least one toothed structure positioned along the path of the conveyor to engage the gearwheel.
5. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein the second actuating device comprises a crankshaft mechanism comprising at least one crank.
6. (New) The device of claim 5, wherein the second actuating device comprises at least one actuating protrusion that engages a slot of an actuating element arranged along the path of the conveyor for actuating the at least one crank.
7. (New) The device of claim 5, wherein the crankshaft mechanism comprises a first crank and a second crank each positioned in a plane perpendicular to the

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second axis and engaging on the second body at an angle relative to one another with respect to the second axis, the angle being other than 0 degrees.

8. (New) The device of claim 5, wherein each crank comprises at least two actuating protrusions for actuating the crankshaft mechanism while the first body is positioned in at least two different first angular positions.

9. (New) The device of claim 1, further comprising:
a third actuating device for positioning the second body in multiple third angular positions with respect to a third axis; and
a third locking device for maintaining the second body in a third angular position.

10. (New) The device of claim 9, wherein the second body has a longitudinal axis, and wherein the third axis is oriented substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the second body.

11. (New) The device of claim 1, further comprising a slaughter product carrier coupled to the second body, and wherein the slaughter product fixing device is adapted to couple the slaughter product to the slaughter product carrier.

12. (New) The device of claim 11, wherein the slaughter product carrier comprises a surface for supporting the slaughter product and a fixing element coupled to the surface and comprising at least one projection adapted to contact the slaughter product through an opening in the surface.

13. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein the slaughter product fixing device is arranged along the path of the conveyor.

14. (New) A device for processing a slaughter product, comprising:
a conveyor for moving the slaughter product along a path;
a first body connected to the conveyor so that it can rotate about a first axis;
a second body connected to the first body so that it can rotate about a second axis;
first actuating means for positioning the first body in multiple first angular positions
with respect to the first axis;
second actuating means for positioning the second body in multiple second angular
positions with respect to the second axis, wherein the second angular positions of the second
body are independent of the first angular positions of the first body;
locking means for maintaining the first body in a first angular position and the second
body in a second angular position; and
slaughter product fixing means for fixedly connecting a breast portion of the slaughter
product to the second body.

15. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the locking means comprises:
a first locking means for maintaining the first body in a first angular position; and
a second locking means for maintaining the second body in a second angular position,
wherein the first locking means is formed by the first actuating means.

16. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the locking means comprises:
a first locking means for maintaining the first body in a first angular position; and
a second locking means for maintaining the second body in a second angular position,
wherein the second locking means is formed by the second actuating means.

17. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the locking means are
positioned along the path of the conveyor.

18. (New) The device of claim 17, wherein the locking means are adapted to engage the slaughter product.

19. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein substantially the entire second body is positioned beneath the first body in at least one of the second angular positions.

20. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the conveyor is an overhead conveyor.

21. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the first axis is substantially vertical.

22. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the second axis is substantially perpendicular to the first axis.

23. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the first axis and the second axis are separated by a distance of at most about 0.1 meters.

24. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the first axis and the second axis intersect.

25. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the first body comprises at least one projection positioned substantially perpendicular to the first axis.

26. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the first actuating means comprises at least one stop positioned along the path of the conveyor for engaging the at least one projection.

27. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the first body further comprises a gearwheel, and the first actuating means comprise at least one toothed structure positioned along the path of the conveyor to engage the gearwheel.

28. (New) The device of claim 27, wherein the gearwheel comprises a first section of a circumference of the gearwheel and a second section of the circumference of the gearwheel, wherein the first section comprises teeth to engage the toothed structure of the first actuating means.

29. (New) The device of claim 28, wherein the gearwheel further comprises a protrusion positioned adjacent to the second section of the gearwheel for blocking rotation of the first body about the first axis in one direction of rotation.

30. (New) The device of claim 28, wherein a height of the gearwheel comprises a first portion and a second portion adjacent the first portion, wherein the first portion comprises the first section and the second section and the second portion comprises teeth.

31. (New) The device of claim 27, wherein the first actuating means comprises two toothed structures that each engage the gearwheel at a different height of the gearwheel.

32. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the second actuating means comprises a crankshaft mechanism comprising at least one crank.

33. (New) The device of claim 32, wherein the second actuating means comprises at least one actuating protrusion that engages a slot of an actuating element arranged along the path of the conveyor for actuating the at least one crank.

34. (New) The device of claim 32, wherein the crankshaft mechanism comprises a first crank and a second crank each positioned in a plane perpendicular to the second axis and engaging on the second body at an angle relative to one another with respect to the second axis, the angle being other than 0 degrees.

35. (New) The device of claim 32, wherein each crank comprises at least two actuating protrusions for actuating the crankshaft mechanism while the first body is positioned in at least two different first angular positions.

36. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the second actuating means comprises a gearwheel comprising teeth and coupled to the second body and a rack bar comprising teeth and coupled to the first body, wherein the gearwheel teeth and the rack bar teeth are adapted to mesh.

37. (New) The device of claim 36, wherein the second actuating means further comprises at least one actuating protrusion that operatively engages the rack bar and is adapted to be received in a slot of an actuating element arranged along the path of the conveyor.

38. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the second actuating means comprises a gearwheel comprising teeth and coupled to the second body, and a belt comprising teeth and coupled to the first body, wherein the gearwheel teeth are adapted to mesh the belt teeth.

39. (New) The device of claim 38, wherein the second actuating means further comprises at least one actuating protrusion that operatively engages the toothed belt and is adapted to be received in a slot of an actuating element positioned along the path of the conveyor.

40. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the first body comprises a first rolling body having a first rolling surface and the second body comprises a second rolling body having a second rolling surface and wherein the second actuating means comprises the first rolling body and the second rolling body, wherein the first rolling surface and the second rolling surface engage at a contact point to roll relative to each other.

41. (New) The device of claim 40, wherein the first rolling body is integrally formed with the first body.

42. (New) The device of claim 40, wherein the second rolling body is integrally formed with the second body.

43. (New) The device of claim 40, wherein the first rolling surface and the second rolling surface each comprise teeth, wherein the teeth of the first rolling surface mesh with the teeth of the second rolling surface.

44. (New) The device of claim 40, further comprising a flexible cord fixedly attached at a first end to the first rolling body, wherein the cord extends along the first rolling surface to the contact point between the first and second rolling surfaces and then extends along the second rolling surface, to a point where the second end of the cord is fixedly attached to the second rolling body.

45. (New) The device of claim 40, wherein at least a portion of each rolling surface extends in the form of an arc about a center point associated with each rolling body.

46. (New) The device of claim 40, wherein an axis extends through each center point and the axes of the rolling bodies are parallel.

47. (New) The device of claim 46, wherein the first rolling body is fixedly connected to the first body.

48. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the first body comprises a first rolling body having a first rolling surface and the second body comprises a second rolling body having a second rolling surface, wherein the first rolling surface and the second rolling surface engage at a contact point to roll relative to each other, wherein the second actuating means further comprises an arm that operatively connects the second rolling body to the first body, wherein the arm is capable of being rotated about a center line of both the first rolling body and the second rolling body, and wherein the second actuating means further comprises an actuating protrusion coupled to the arm so that movement of the actuating protrusion causes a pivoting movement of the arm.

49. (New) The device of claim 48, wherein the actuating protrusion is guided in an associated guide with respect to the first body and is connected with a coupling rod to the arm at a distance from the center line of the first rolling body.

50. (New) The device of claim 49, wherein the associated guide is substantially straight.

51. (New) The device of claim 14, further comprising:
third actuating means for positioning the second body in multiple third angular positions with respect to a third axis; and
third locking means for maintaining the second body in a third angular position.

52. (New) The device of claim 51, wherein the second body has a longitudinal axis, and wherein the third axis is oriented substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the second body.

53. (New) The device of claim 14, further comprising a slaughter product carrier coupled to the second body, and wherein the slaughter product fixing means are adapted to couple the slaughter product to the slaughter product carrier.

54. (New) The device of claim 53, wherein the slaughter product carrier is adapted to receive a front half of slaughtered poultry.

55. (New) The device of claim 53, wherein the slaughter product carrier comprises a surface for supporting the slaughter product and a fixing element coupled to the surface and comprising at least one projection adapted to contact the slaughter product through an opening in the surface.

56. (New) The device of claim 55, wherein the fixing element comprises a hook.

57. (New) The device of claim 53, wherein a first part of the slaughter product carrier can move with respect to a second part of the slaughter product carrier.

58. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the slaughter product fixing means are arranged along the path of the conveyor.

59. (New) The device of claim 58, wherein the slaughter product fixing means comprise at least one guide rail extending generally in the direction of the path of the conveyor and positioned along the path of the conveyor to contact the slaughter product.

60. (New) The device of claim 58, wherein the slaughter product fixing means comprise at least one belt positioned along the path of the conveyor and extending generally in the direction of the path of the conveyor, wherein one surface of the belt is adapted to move in the direction of the conveyor and contact the slaughter product.

61. (New) The device of claim 58, wherein the slaughter product fixing means comprise at least one slaughter product processing means extending generally in the direction of the path of the conveyor and positioned along the path of the conveyor to contact the slaughter product to process the slaughter product.

62. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the first body comprises at least one recess positioned substantially perpendicular to the first axis.

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63. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the first actuating means comprises at least one stop positioned along the path of the conveyor for engaging the at least one recess.